

Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 PM-09 NSC-10 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03 USIA-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /077 W
----- 024154

P R 101114 Z MAY 73

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3069

SECDEF WASHDC

CINCPAC

INFO USSAG

COMUSMACTHAI

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E. O. 11652: N/ A

TAGS: MARR, TH

SUBJECT: PRESS VISITS TO THAI BASES

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

REF: CINCPAC 022239 Z MAY 73

B. CINCPAC 052322 Z MAY 73

1. DURING LAST 10 DAYS MACTHAI PAO HAS REQUESTED OUR APPROVAL FOR PRESS VISITS TO UTAPAO AND JCRC HQ AT NAKHON PHANOM. WE NEVER

SUPPORTED THESE REQUESTS. WE ALSO BELIEVE THAT RTG WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM WITH VISITS. CINCPAC SUBSEQUENTLY RECOMMENDED AGAINST VISITS (REFS A AND B), WE ARE HOWEVER UNAWARE OF ANY REASONS FOR THIS RECOMMENDATION.

2. OUR POSITION FOR MANY MONTHS HAS BEEN THAT SELECTIVE BASE

VISITS, PROPERLY ORGANIZED, WOULD BE HELPFUL IN ALLEVIATING ATMOSPHERE OF CYNICISM BUILDING OVER BASE ACCESS ISSUE AMONG NEWSMEN, AND ALSO IN HEADING OFF REPORTING ON SECRECY ISSUE WHICH COULD CONCEIVABLY EVEN REFLECT ON COMPLETELY
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OVERT CHARACTER OF JCRC.

3. PRESSURE FOR ACCESS TO BASES IS GROWING AGAIN (THERE HAVE BEEN NO ORGANIZED VISITS SINCE LAST NOVEMBER) AND JOURNALISTS KNOW THAT RTG IS NO LONGER AN OBSTACLE. BELIEVE A BASE VISIT IS IMPORTANT TO RELIEVE RISKS OF MAJOR RENEWAL OF SECRECY ISSUE. UNLESS OTHERWISE INSTRUCTED, WE WILL GO AHEAD WITH PLANS FOR VISIT TO JCRC HQ.

UNGER

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NMAFVVZCZ

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COMUSMACTHAI
EA
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